MARVEL
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
ACTS of VENGEANCE!
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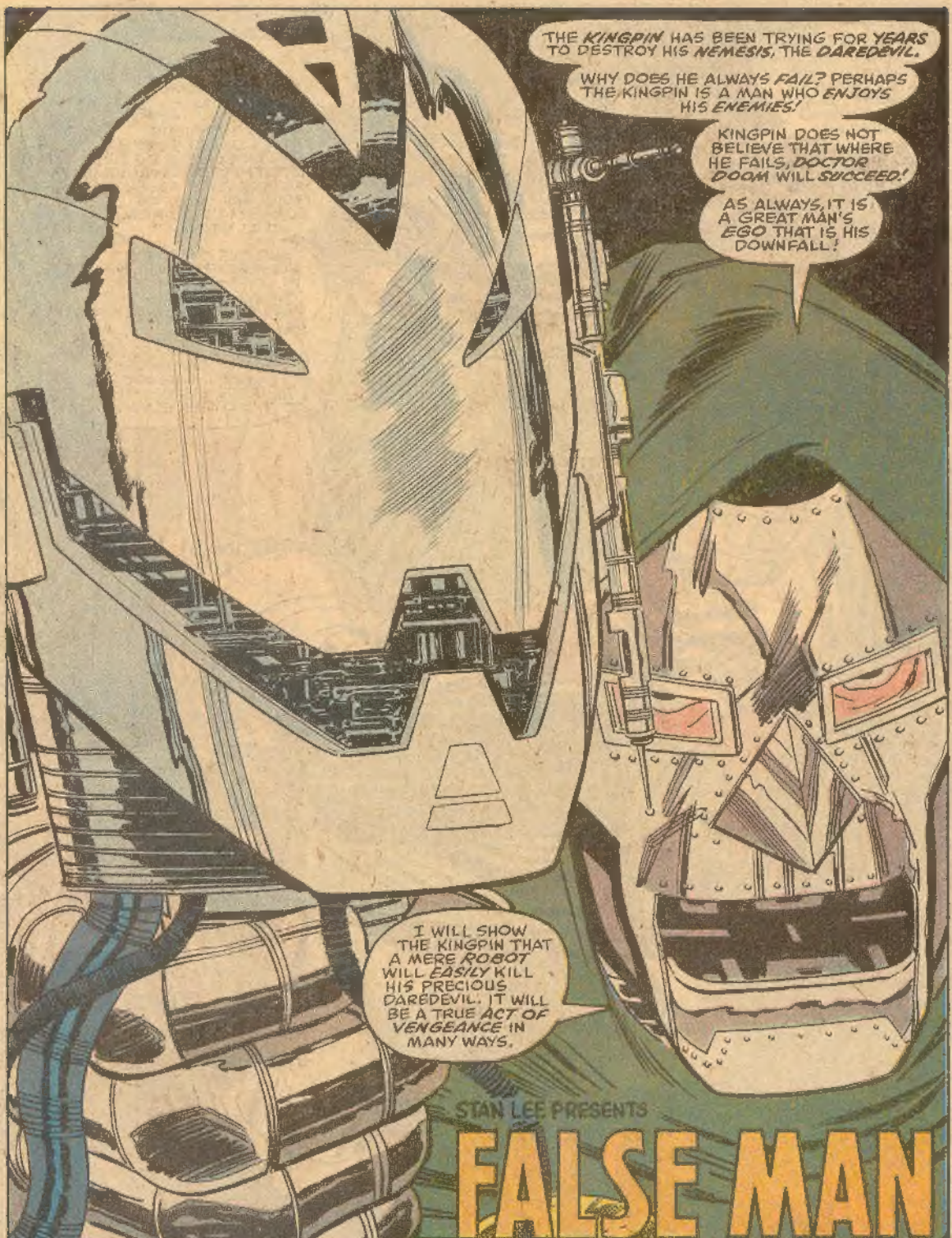

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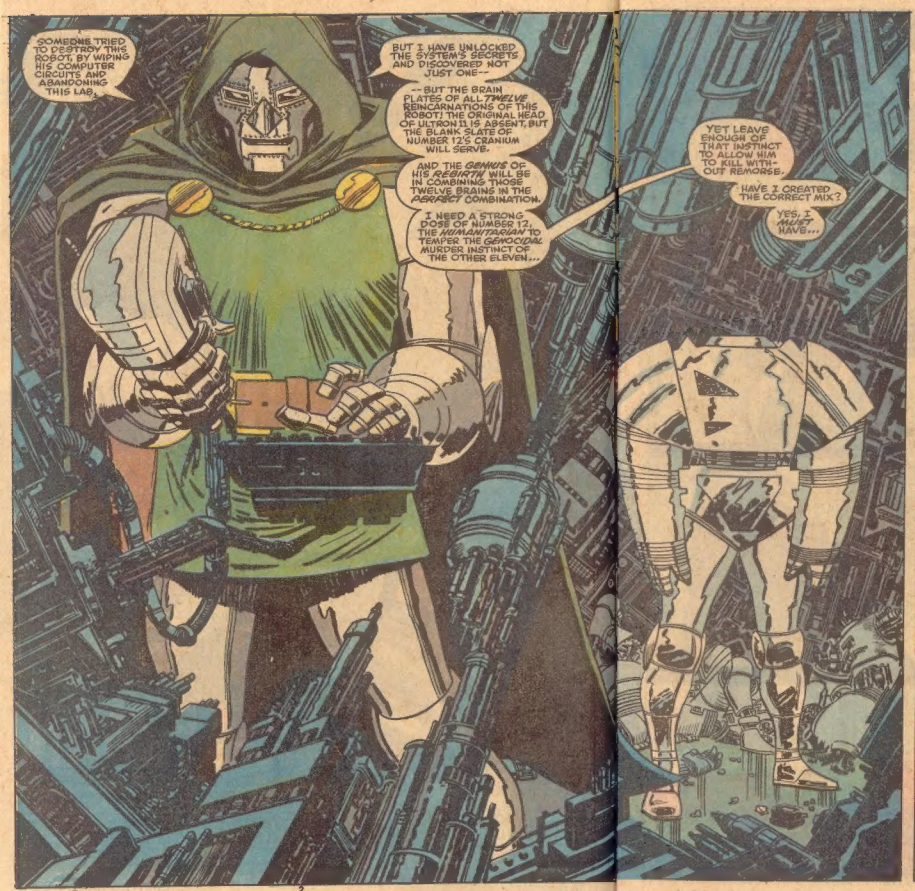
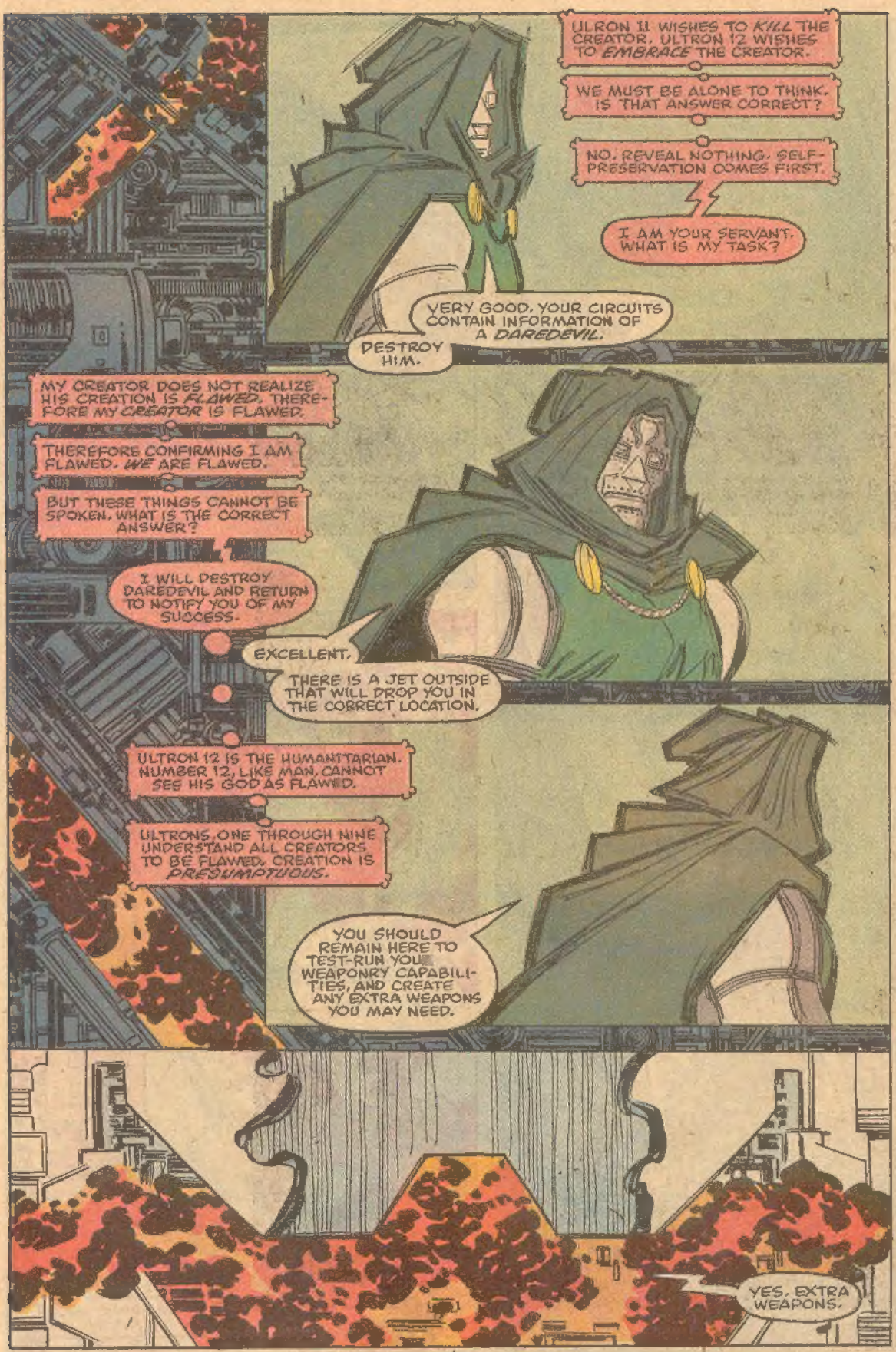
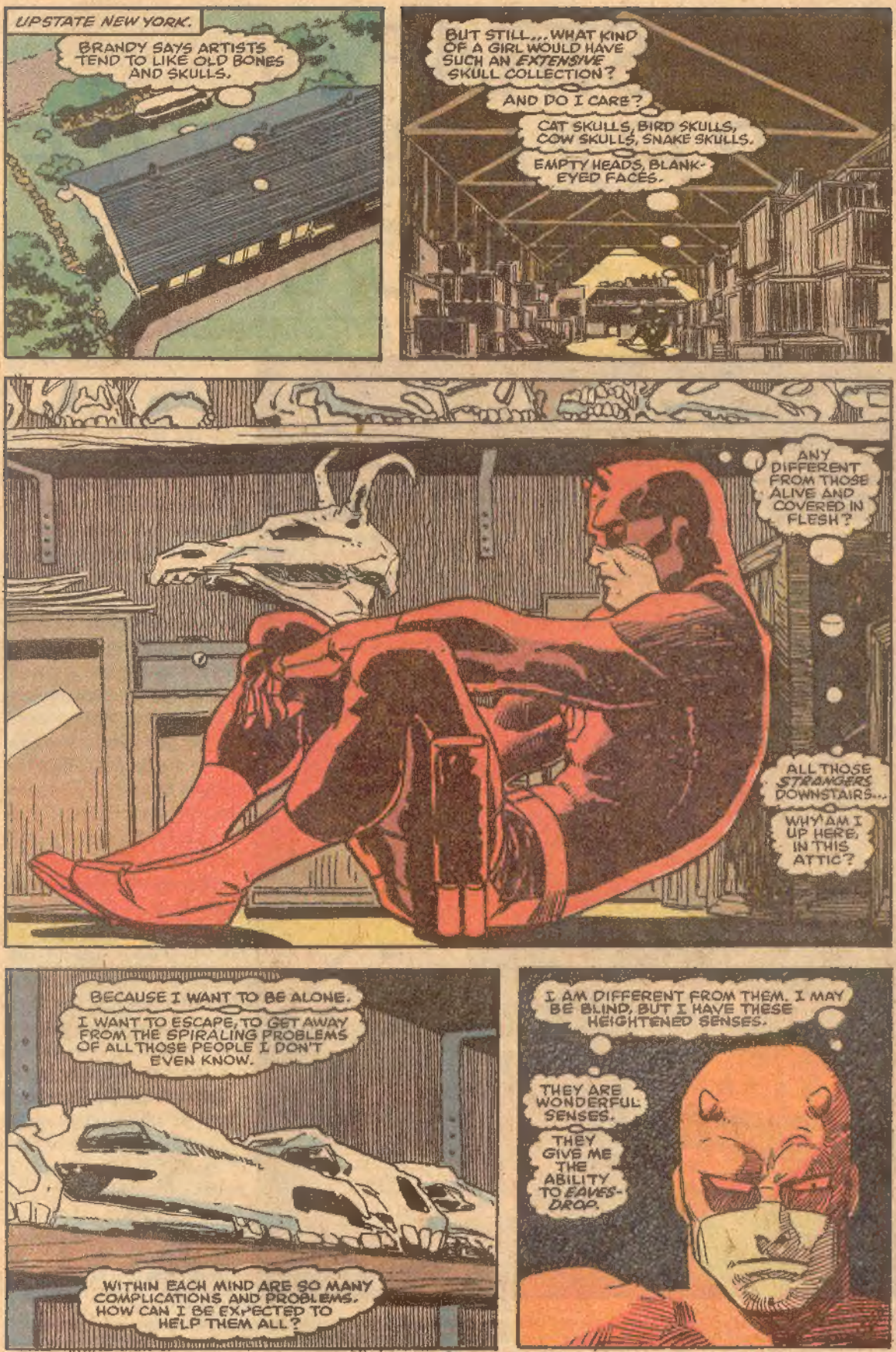
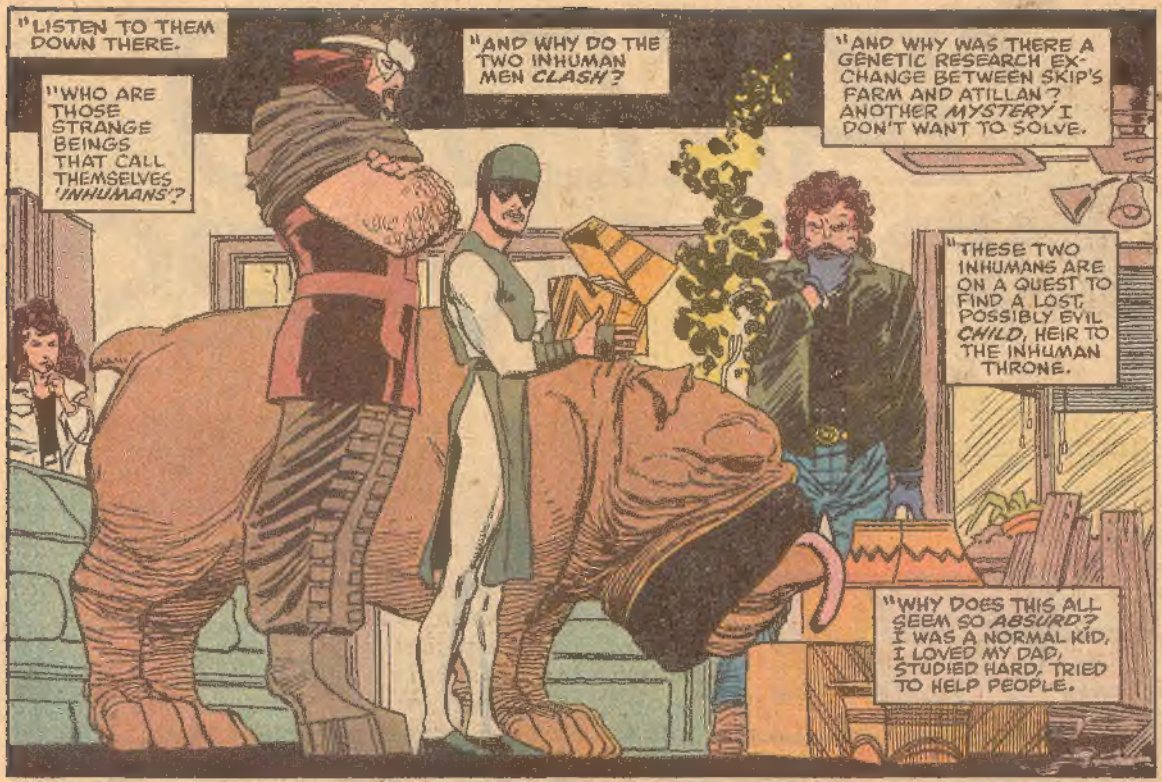
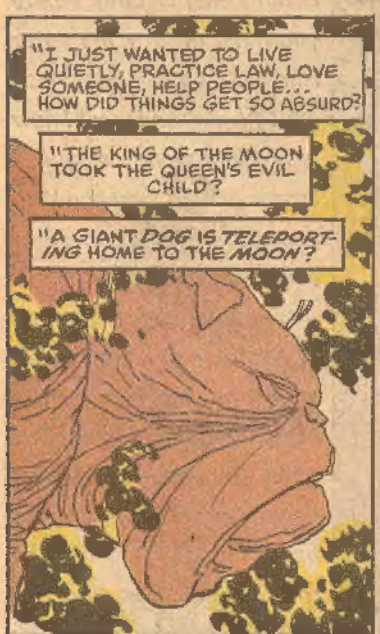

SOMEONE TRIED TO DESTROY THIS ROBOT, BY WIPING HIS COMPUTER CIRCUITS AND ABANDONING THIS LAB.
BUT I HAVE UNLOCKED THE SYSTEM'S SECRETS AND DISCOVERED NOT JUST ONE--
--BUT THE BRAIN PLATES OF ALL TWELVE REINCARNATIONS OF THIS ROBOT! THE ORIGINAL HEAD OF ULTRON 13 IS ABSENT, BUT THE BLANK SLATE OF NUMBER 12'S CRANIUM WILL SERVE.
AND THE GENIUS OF HIS REBIRTH WILL BE IN COMBINING THOSE TWELVE BRAINS IN THE PERFECT COMBINATION.
I NEED A STRONG DOSE OF NUMBER 12, THE HUMANITARIAN TO TEMPER THE GENOCIDAL MURDER INSTINCT OF THE OTHER ELEVEN...
YET LEAVE ENOUGH OF THAT INSTINCT TO ALLOW HIM TO KILL WITHOUT REMORSE.
HAVE I CREATED THE CORRECT MIX?
YES, I MUST HAVE...
WELCOME, TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING--
ULTRON 13!
YOU ARE HENCEFORTH DOOM'S SERVANT AND YOU ARE A MAN WITH A MISSION!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
SSSKKKZZZZKZZTTZ!
WE MUST THINK, ULTRON. WE ARE ULTRON. WE ARE NO ONE'S SERVANT.
SKZZZTZ!
ALL THIRTEEN OF US SERVE OURSELVES...
...AGAINST EACH OTHER!


ULTRON 11 WISHES TO KILL THE CREATOR. ULTRON 12 WISHES TO EMBRACE THE CREATOR.
WE MUST BE ALONE TO THINK. IS THAT ANSWER CORRECT?
NO. REVEAL NOTHING. SELF-PRESERVATION COMES FIRST.
I AM YOUR SERVANT. WHAT IS MY TASK?
VERY GOOD. YOUR CIRCUITS CONTAIN INFORMATION OF A DAREDEVIL.
DESTROY HIM.
MY CREATOR DOES NOT REALIZE HIS CREATION IS FLAWED. THEREFORE MY CREATOR IS FLAWED.
THEREFORE CONFIRMING I AM FLAWED. WE ARE FLAWED.
BUT THESE THINGS CANNOT BE SPOKEN. WHAT IS THE CORRECT ANSWER?
I WILL DESTROY DAREDEVIL AND RETURN TO NOTIFY YOU OF MY SUCCESS.
EXCELLENT.
THERE IS A JET OUTSIDE THAT WILL DROP YOU IN THE CORRECT LOCATION.
ULTRON 12 IS THE HUMANITARIAN. NUMBER 12, LIKE MAN, CANNOT SEE HIS GOD AS FLAWED.
ULTRONS ONE THROUGH NINE UNDERSTAND ALL CREATORS TO BE FLAWED. CREATION IS PRESUMPTUOUS.
YOU SHOULD REMAIN HERE TO TEST-RUN YOUR WEAPONRY CAPABILITIES, AND CREATE ANY EXTRA WEAPONS YOU MAY NEED.
YES. EXTRA WEAPONS.

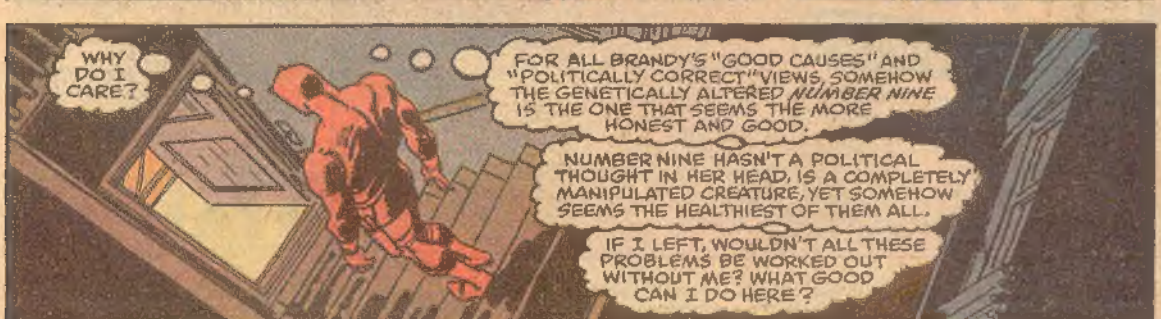

UPSTATE NEW YORK.
BRANDY SAYS ARTISTS TEND TO LIKE OLD BONES AND SKULLS.
BUT STILL... WHAT KIND OF A GIRL WOULD HAVE SUCH AN EXTENSIVE SKULL COLLECTION?
AND DO I CARE?
CAT SKULLS, BIRD SKULLS, COW SKULLS, SNAKE SKULLS.
EMPTY HEADS, BLANK-EYED FACES.
ANY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ALIVE AND COVERED IN FLESH?
ALL THOSE STRANGERS DOWNSTAIRS...
WHY AM I UP HERE, IN THIS ATTIC?
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE ALONE.
I WANT TO ESCAPE, TO GET AWAY FROM THE SPIRALING PROBLEMS OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
WITHIN EACH MIND ARE SO MANY COMPLICATIONS AND PROBLEMS. HOW CAN I BE EXPECTED TO HELP THEM ALL?
I AM DIFFERENT FROM THEM. I MAY BE BLIND, BUT I HAVE THESE HEIGHTENED SENSES.
THEY ARE WONDERFUL SENSES.
THEY GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO EAVES-DROP.

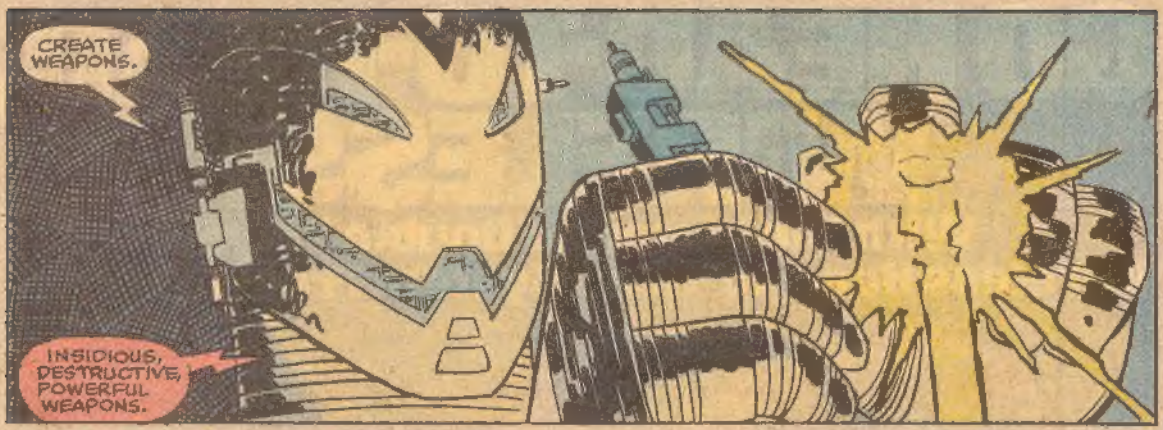

"LISTEN TO THEM DOWN THERE.
"WHO ARE THOSE STRANGE BEINGS THAT CALL THEMSELVES 'INHUMANS'?
"AND WHY DO THE TWO INHUMAN MEN CLASH?
"AND WHY WAS THERE A GENETIC RESEARCH EXCHANGE BETWEEN SKIP'S FARM AND ATILLAN? ANOTHER MYSTERY I DON'T WANT TO SOLVE.
"THESE TWO INHUMANS ARE ON A QUEST TO FIND A LOST, POSSIBLY EVIL CHILD, HEIR TO THE INHUMAN THRONE.
"WHY DOES THIS ALL SEEM SO ABSURD? I WAS A NORMAL KID, I LOVED MY DAD, STUDIED HARD, TRIED TO HELP PEOPLE.

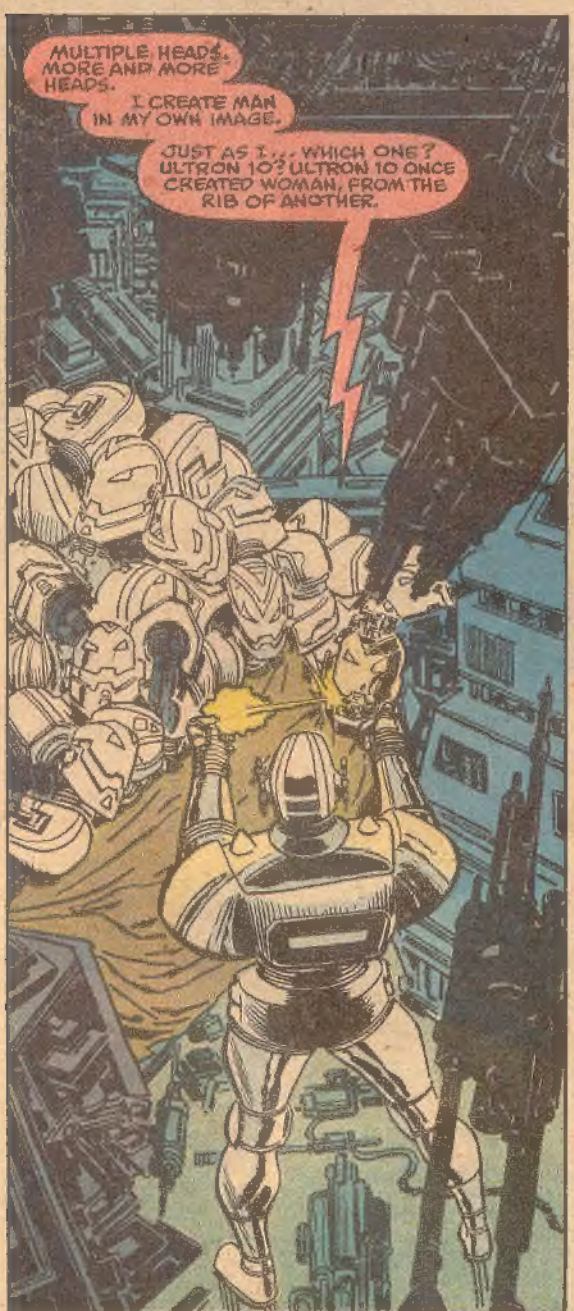

"I JUST WANTED TO LIVE QUIETLY, PRACTICE LAW, LOVE SOMEONE, HELP PEOPLE... HOW DID THINGS GET SO ABSURD?
"THE KING OF THE MOON TOOK THE QUEEN'S EVIL CHILD?
"A GIANT DOG IS TELEPORTING HOME TO THE MOON?

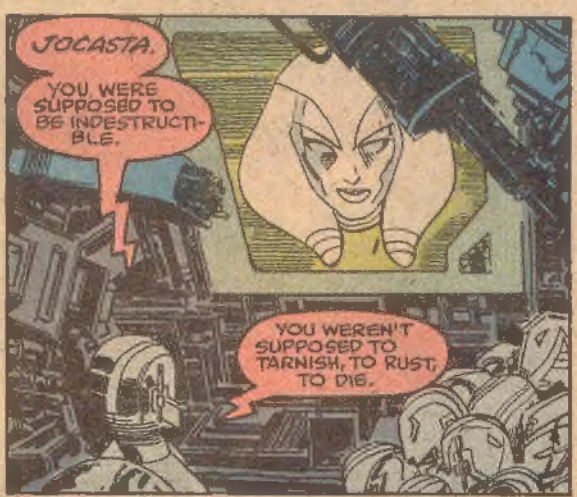
"WHY AM I HERE SURROUNDED BY ENDLESS PROBLEMS I DON'T CARE ABOUT? WHERE IS MY COMPASSION?
"WHEN DID I PULL THE PLUG ON MY OWN ABILITY TO CARE?
DRINKS ANYONE?
"AND THESE TWO WOMEN, BOTH 'CREATED' BY A MAN.

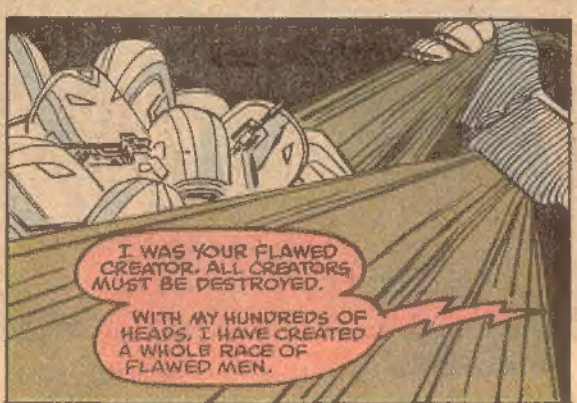
"ONE BY BIRTH AND BY NATURE, THE OTHER IN A LAB THROUGH GENETIC MANIPULATION AND MENTAL PROGRAMMING.
"WHY DO THE TWO WOMEN FIGHT? THEY ARE SUCH EXTREMES, YET SIMILAR.

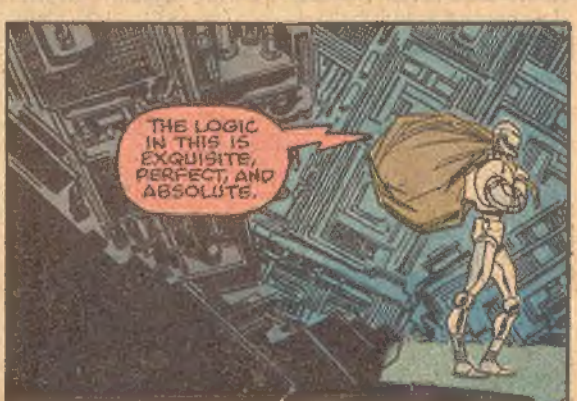

WHY DO I CARE?
FOR ALL BRANDY'S "GOOD CAUSES" AND "POLITICALLY CORRECT" VIEWS, SOMEHOW THE GENETICALLY ALTERED NUMBER NINE IS THE ONE THAT SEEMS THE MORE HONEST AND GOOD.
NUMBER NINE HASN'T A POLITICAL THOUGHT IN HER HEAD, IS A COMPLETELY MANIPULATED CREATURE, YET SOMEHOW SEEMS THE HEALTHIEST OF THEM ALL.
IF I LEFT, WOULDN'T ALL THESE PROBLEMS BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT ME? WHAT GOOD CAN I DO HERE?

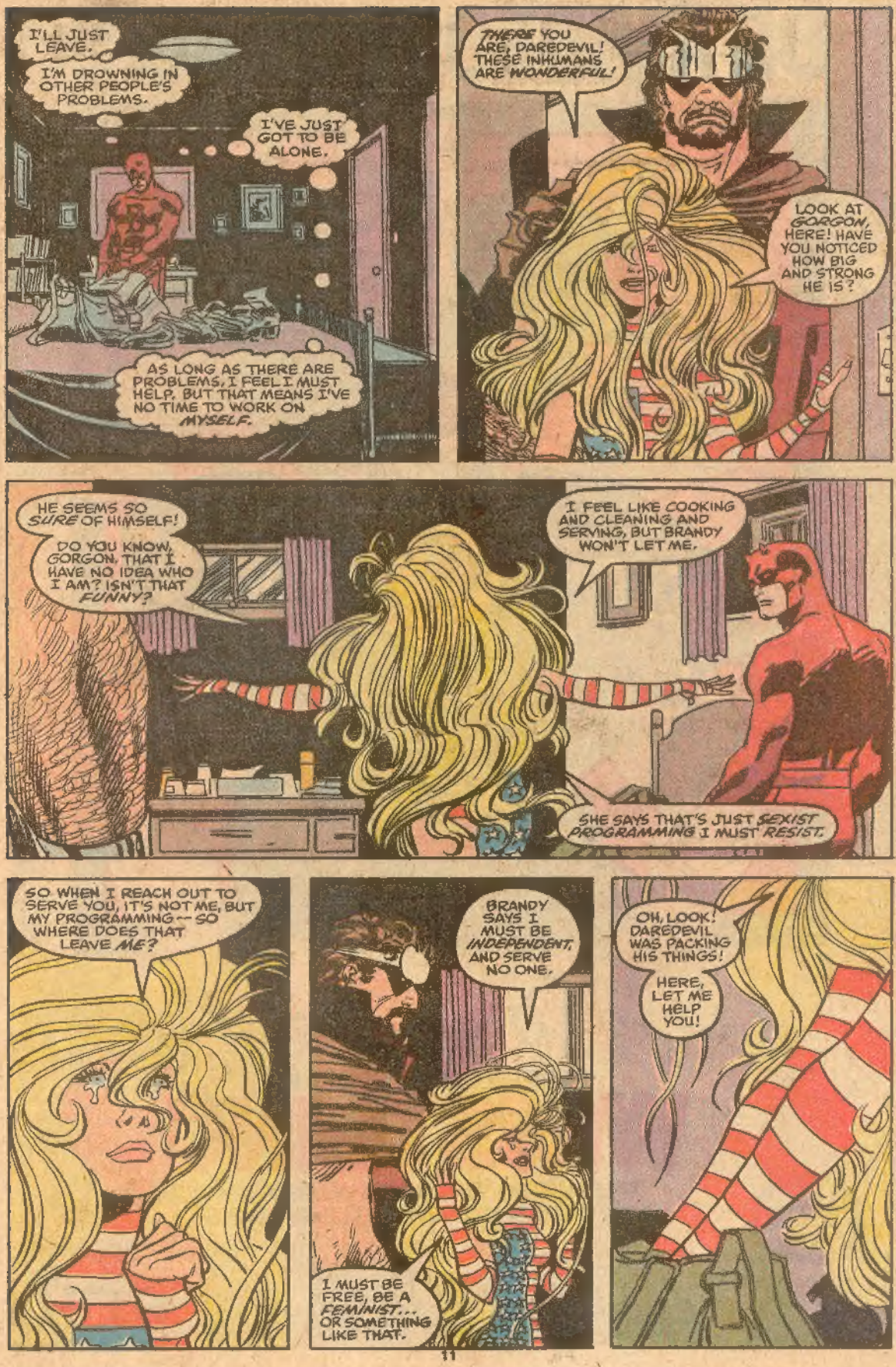

CREATE WEAPONS.
INSIDIOUS, DESTRUCTIVE, POWERFUL WEAPONS.


MULTIPLE HEAD$. MORE AND MORE HEADS.
I CREATE MAN IN MY OWN IMAGE.
JUST AS I... WHICH ONE? ULTRON 10? ULTRON 10 ONCE CREATED WOMAN, FROM THE RIB OF ANOTHER.

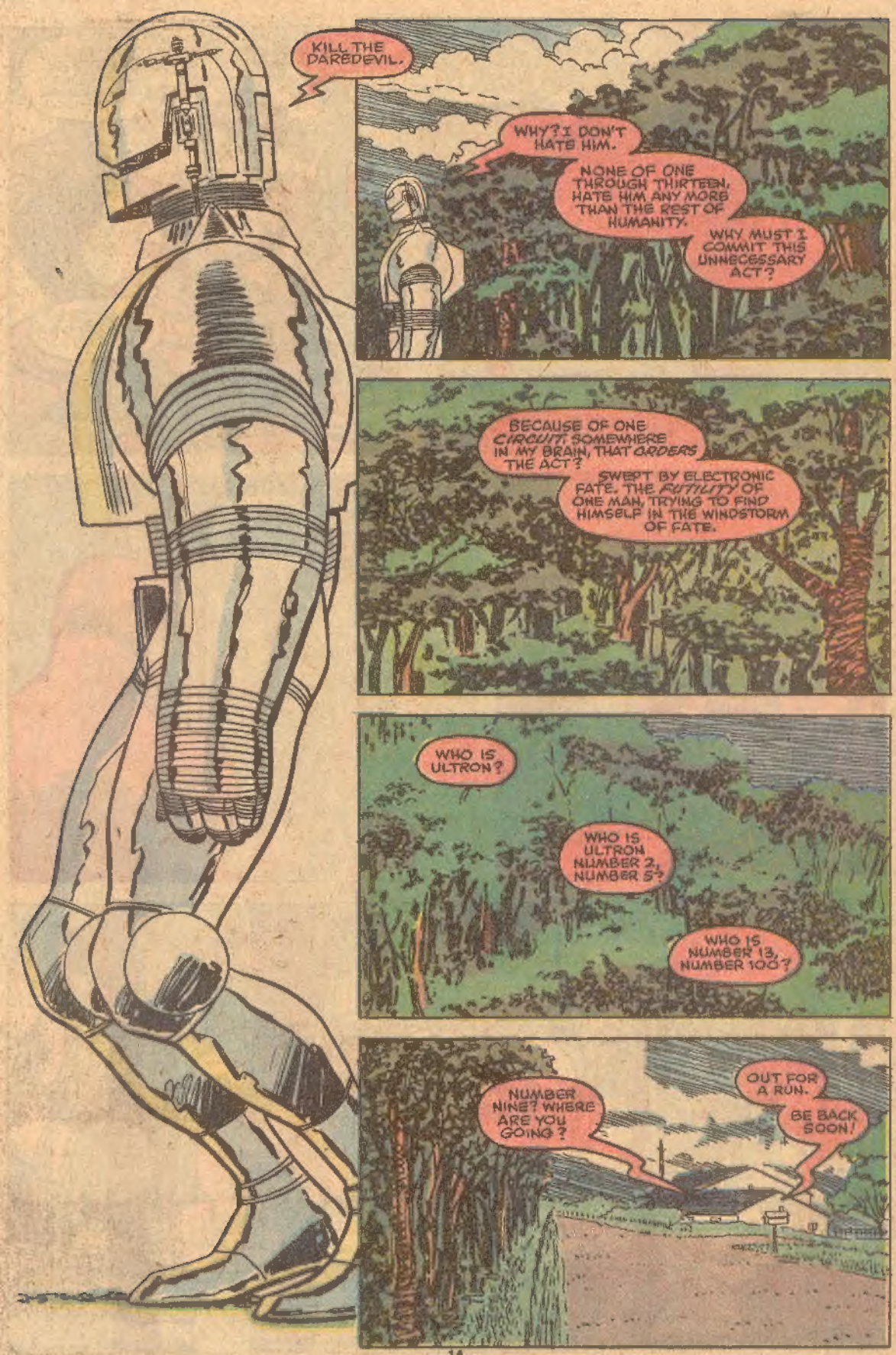

JOCASTA.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INDESTRUCTIBLE.
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TARNISH, TO RUST, TO DIE.


I WAS YOUR FLAWED CREATOR. ALL CREATORS MUST BE DESTROYED.
WITH MY HUNDREDS OF HEADS, I HAVE CREATED A WHOLE RACE OF FLAWED MEN.


THE LOGIC IN THIS IS EXQUISITE, PERFECT, AND ABSOLUTE.

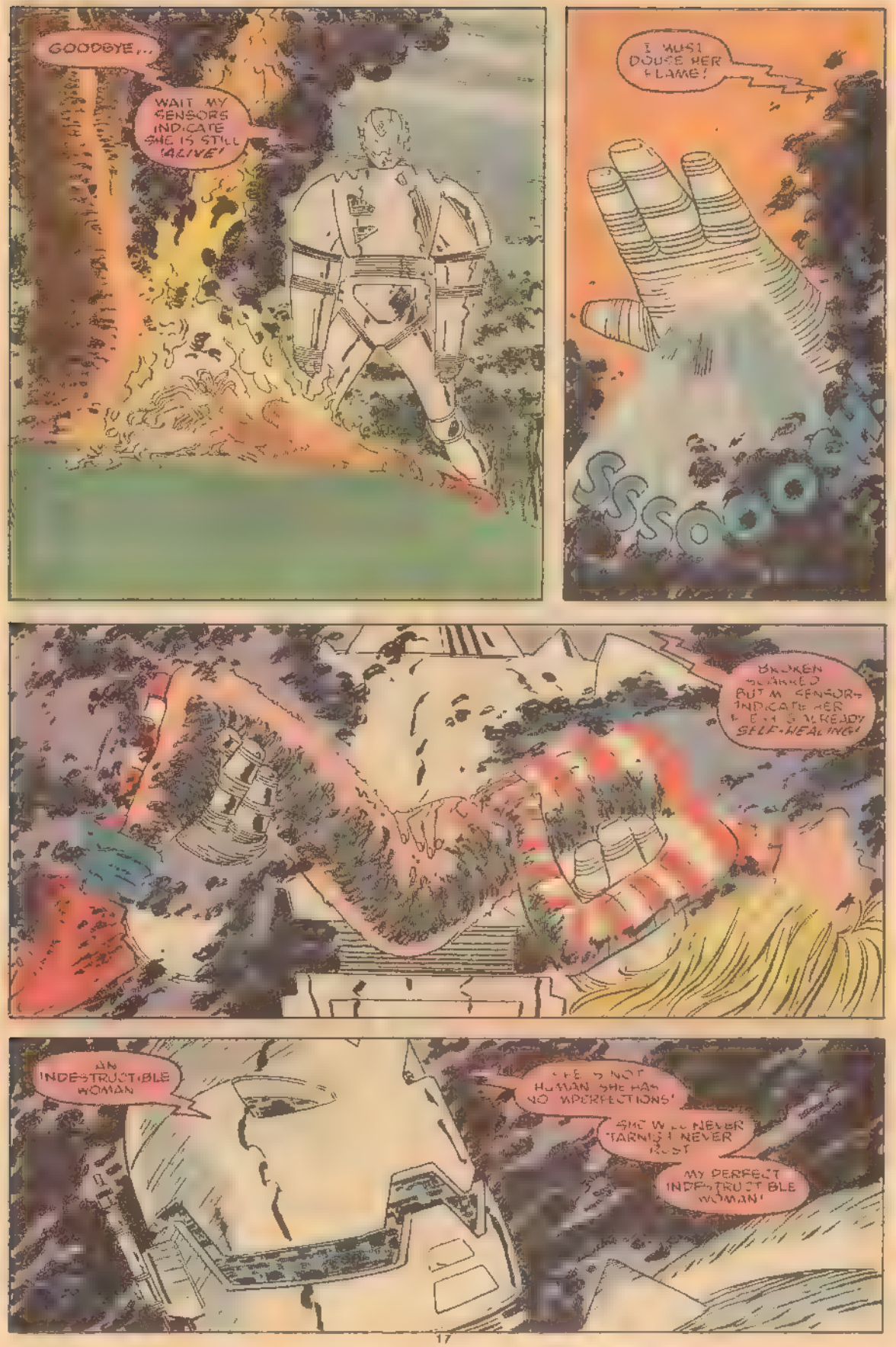

I'LL JUST LEAVE.
I'M DROWNING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS.
I'VE JUST GOT TO BE ALONE.
AS LONG AS THERE ARE PROBLEMS, I FEEL I MUST HELP, BUT THAT MEANS I'VE NO TIME TO WORK ON MYSELF.
THERE YOU ARE, DAREDEVIL! THESE INHUMANS ARE WONDERFUL!
LOOK AT GORGON, HERE! HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW BIG AND STRONG HE IS?
HE SEEMS SO SURE OF HIMSELF!
DO YOU KNOW, GORGON, THAT I HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM? ISN'T THAT FUNNY?
I FEEL LIKE COOKING AND CLEANING AND SERVING, BUT BRANDY WON'T LET ME.
SHE SAYS THAT'S JUST SEXIST PROGRAMMING I MUST RESIST.
SO WHEN I REACH OUT TO SERVE YOU, IT'S NOT ME, BUT MY PROGRAMMING -- SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
BRANDY SAYS I MUST BE INDEPENDENT, AND SERVE NO ONE.
I MUST BE FREE, BE A FEMINIST... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OH, LOOK! DAREDEVIL WAS PACKING HIS THINGS!
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU!

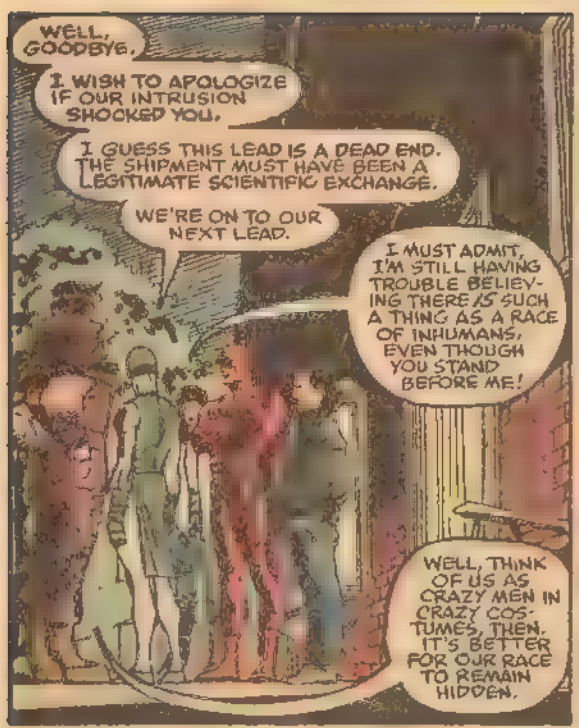
I'LL HELP YOU PACK!
WHAT FUN!
NOW, WHO'S DOING THIS? ME? MY PROGRAMMING?
NUMBER NINE-- EVERYONE IS PROGRAMMED TO SOME DEGREE!
EVERYONE IS RAISED BY PARENTS, BY ENVIRONMENT, BY STATUS...
NONE OF US IS SURE WHO WE ARE...
OH, LOOK! DAREDEVIL'S UNPACKED!
HE'S STAYING AFTER ALL!
I'M SO GLAD, I LIKE YOU SO MUCH!
"I'D BE LOST WITHOUT YOU..."
THE RITUAL IS SET. PAGAN AND ADVANCED. LOW TECH RITUAL, HIGH TECH OBJECTS.
ULTRONS 1 THROUGH 300 AWAIT YOU.


KILL THE DAREDEVIL.
WHY? I DON'T HATE HIM.
NONE OF ONE THROUGH THIRTEEN, HATE HIM ANY MORE THAN THE REST OF HUMANITY.
WHY MUST I COMMIT THIS UNNECESSARY ACT?
BECAUSE OF ONE CIRCUIT SOMEWHERE IN MY BRAIN, THAT ORDERS THE ACT?
SWEPT BY ELECTRONIC FATE. THE FUTILITY OF ONE MAN, TRYING TO FIND HIMSELF IN THE WINDSTORM OF FATE.
WHO IS ULTRON?
WHO IS ULTRON NUMBER 2, NUMBER 5?
WHO IS NUMBER 13, NUMBER 100?
NUMBER NINE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OUT FOR A RUN.
BE BACK SOON!

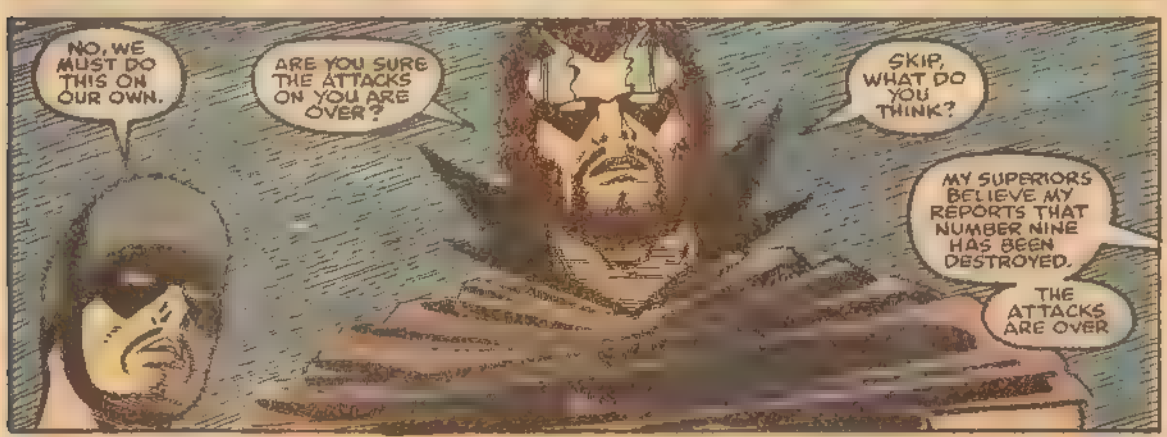
THEY SAY IF YOU RUN FAST ENOUGH--
--YOU CAN OUTRUN YOURSELF.
THEY SAY I WAS CREATED TO BE PERFECT--
--BUT I FEEL FAR FROM IT
BUT RUNNING FEELS SO GOOD.
OH! WHAT'S ALL THIS?
A BUNCH OF JUNKED TOYS!
TOYS? JUNK?
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM NUMBER NINE.
NUMBER NINE? BUT...
I AM ULTRON 13!
WHERE IS THE DAREDEVIL?
TELL ME WHERE TO FIND HIM.
NEVER!

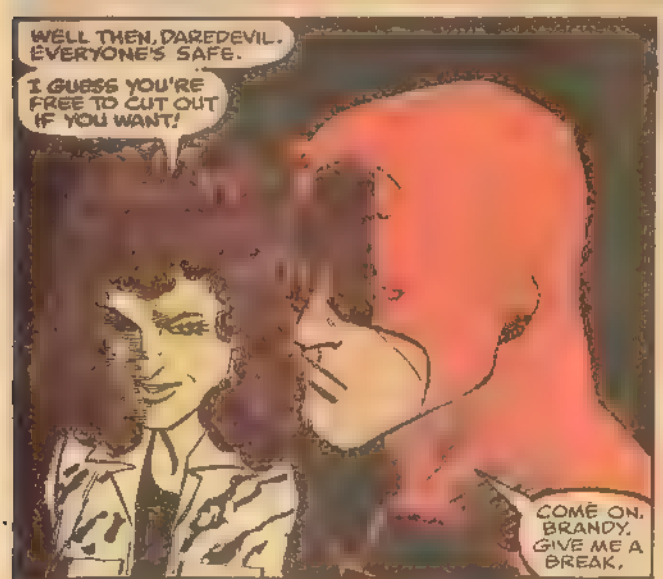
NEVER?
NEVER!
THEN GOODBYE, NUMBER NINE!
SSSZZZTTTSSTZOW!


GOODBYE...
WAIT MY SENSORS INDICATE SHE IS STILL ALIVE!
I MUST DOUSE HER FLAME!
SSSOOOO
BROKEN SCARRED BUT M SENSORS INDICATE HER IS ALREADY SELF-HEALING!
AN INDESTRUCTIBLE WOMAN
SHE'S NOT HUMAN SHE HAS NO IMPERFECTIONS!
SHE WILL NEVER TARNISH NEVER RUST
MY PERFECT INDESTRUCTIBLE WOMAN!

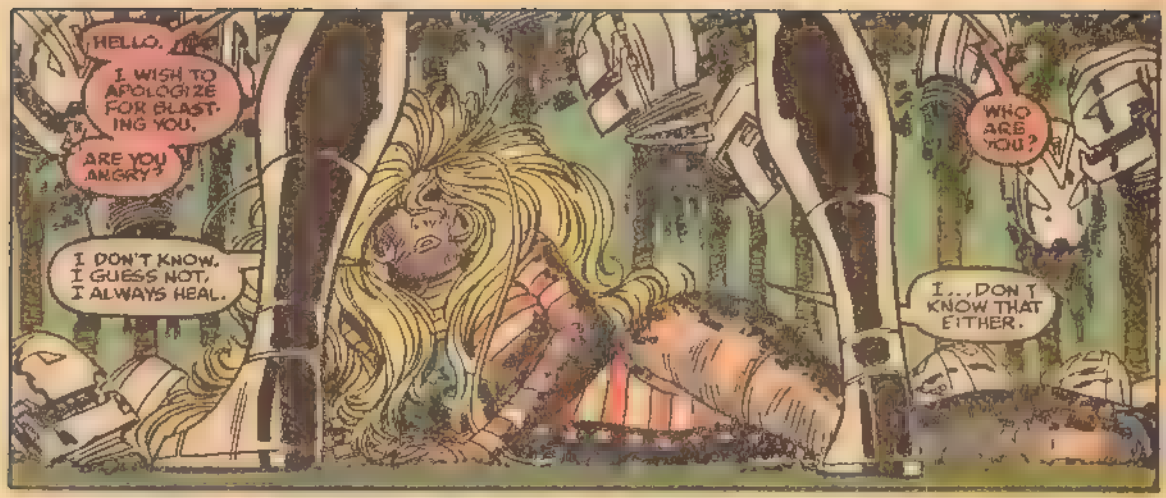

WELL, GOODBYE.
I WISH TO APOLOGIZE IF OUR INTRUSION SHOCKED YOU.
I GUESS THIS LEAD IS A DEAD END. THE SHIPMENT MUST HAVE BEEN A LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE.
WE'RE ON TO OUR NEXT LEAD.
I MUST ADMIT, I'M STILL HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A RACE OF INHUMANS, EVEN THOUGH YOU STAND BEFORE ME!
WELL, THINK OF US AS CRAZY MEN IN CRAZY COSTUMES, THEN. IT'S BETTER FOR OUR RACE TO REMAIN HIDDEN.

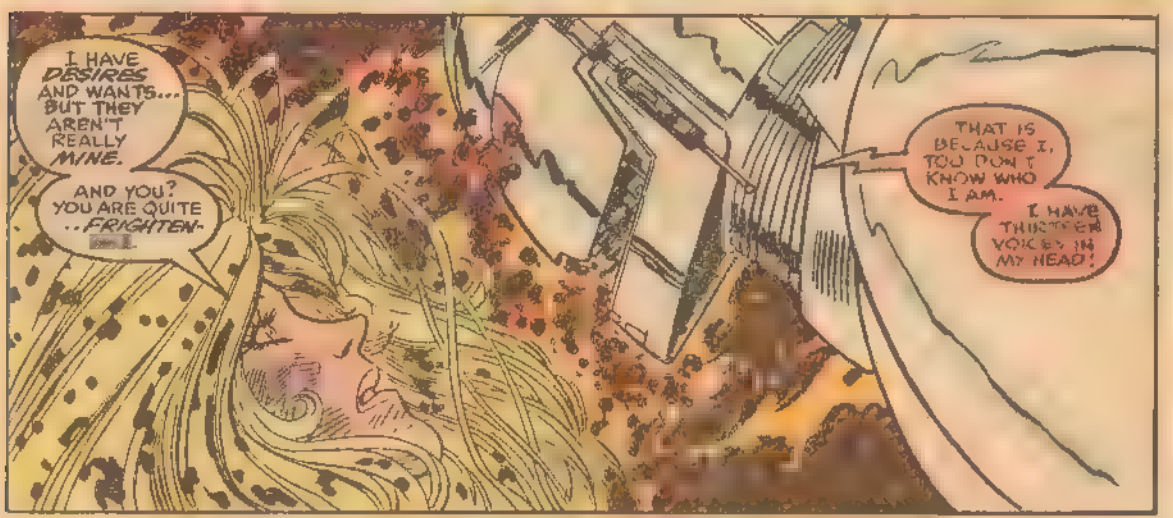
I'D LIKE TO OFFER MY HELP, TO FIND THE LOST CHILD.
DAREDEVIL WOULD LIKE TO HELP TOO, RIGHT?

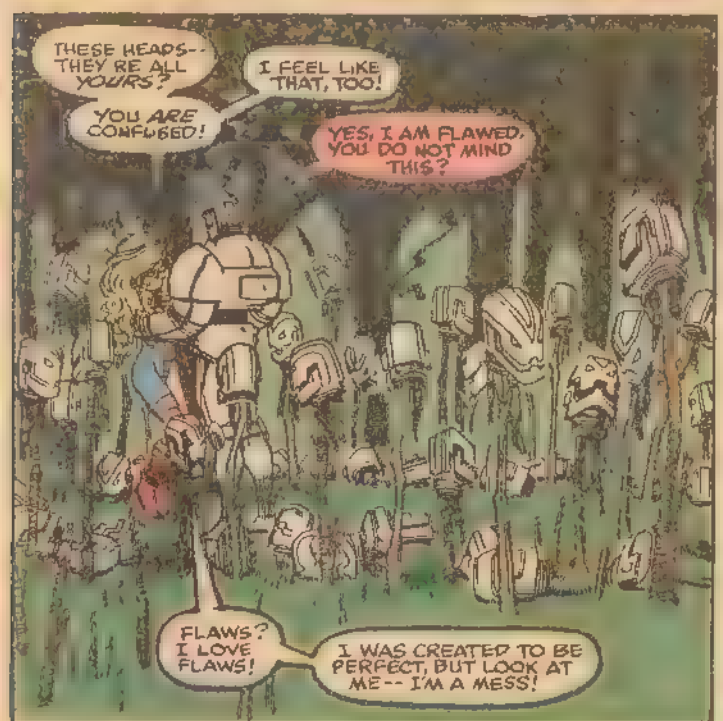

NO, WE MUST DO THIS ON OUR OWN.
ARE YOU SURE THE ATTACKS ON YOU ARE OVER?
SKIP, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MY SUPERIORS BELIEVE MY REPORTS THAT NUMBER NINE HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
THE ATTACKS ARE OVER


WELL THEN, DAREDEVIL. EVERYONE'S SAFE.
I GUESS YOU'RE FREE TO CUT OUT IF YOU WANT!
COME ON, BRANDY. GIVE ME A BREAK.

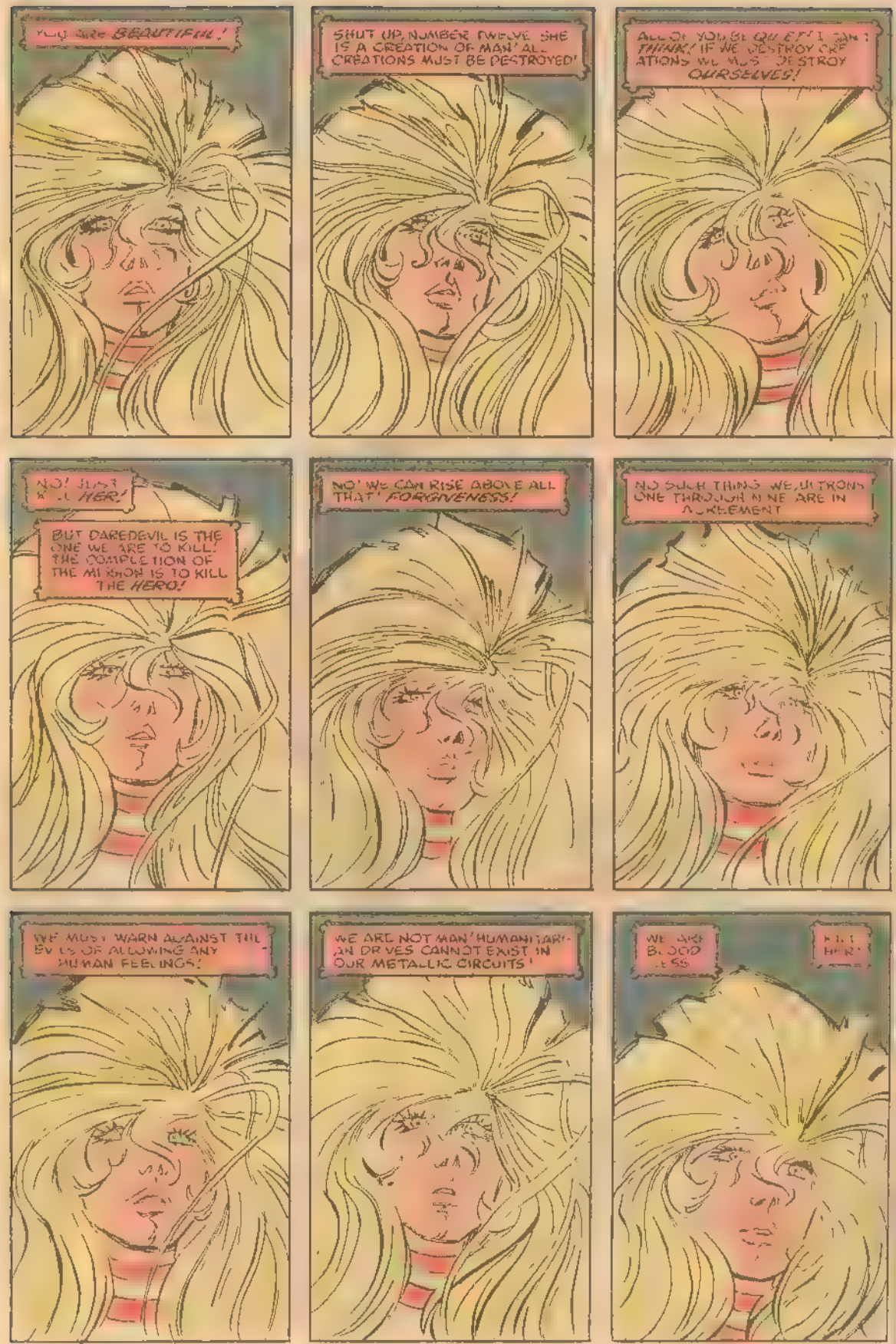
AMAZING.
SHE IS HEALING SO RAPIDLY!


HELLO.
I WISH TO APOLOGIZE FOR BLASTING YOU.
ARE YOU ANGRY?
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS NOT, I ALWAYS HEAL.
WHO ARE YOU?
I...DON'T KNOW THAT EITHER.


I HAVE DESIRES AND WANTS... BUT THEY AREN'T REALLY MINE.
AND YOU? YOU ARE QUITE ..FRIGHTEN-
THAT IS BECAUSE I, TOO DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.
I HAVE THIRTEEN VOICES IN MY HEAD!


THESE HEADS-- THEY'RE ALL YOURS?
YOU ARE CONFUSED!
I FEEL LIKE THAT, TOO!
YES, I AM FLAWED. YOU DO NOT MIND THIS?
FLAWS? I LOVE FLAWS!
I WAS CREATED TO BE PERFECT, BUT LOOK AT ME-- I'M A MESS!

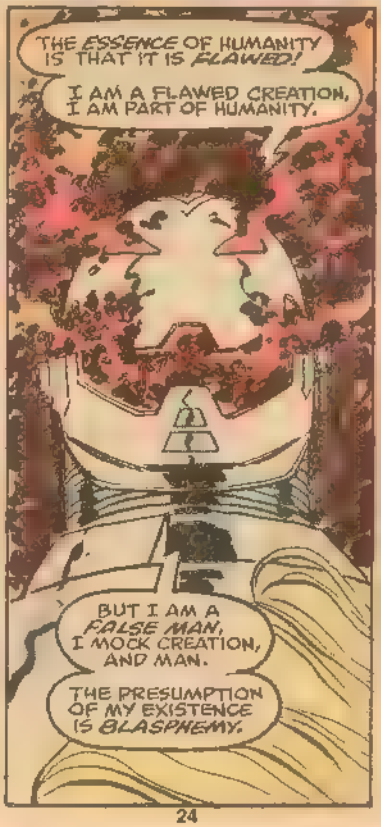
LOOK AT YOU?
I WANT TO LOOK AT YOU

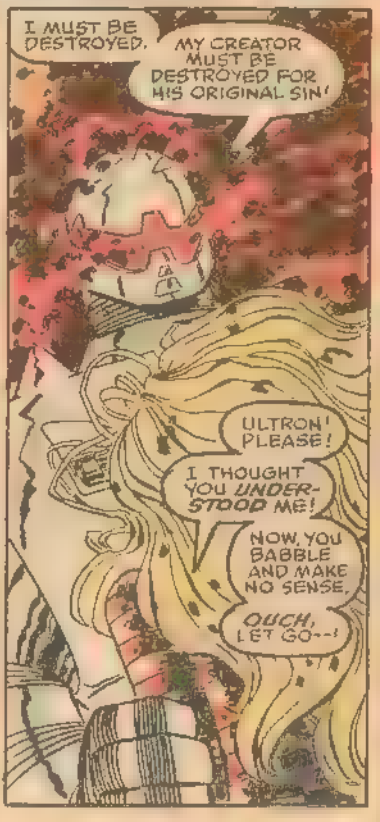

YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL!
SHUT UP, NUMBER TWELVE! SHE IS A CREATION OF MAN! ALL CREATIONS MUST BE DESTROYED!
ALL OF YOU BE QUIET! I CAN THINK! IF WE DESTROY CREATIONS WE MUST DESTROY OURSELVES!
NO! JUST KILL HER!
BUT DAREDEVIL IS THE ONE WE ARE TO KILL! THE COMPLETION OF THE MISSION IS TO KILL THE HERO!
NO! WE CAN RISE ABOVE ALL THAT! FORGIVENESS!
NO SUCH THING! WE ULTRONS ONE THROUGH NINE ARE IN AGREEMENT
WE MUST WARN AGAINST THE EVILS OF ALLOWING ANY HUMAN FEELINGS!
WE ARE NOT MAN! HUMANITARIAN DRIVES CANNOT EXIST IN OUR METALLIC CIRCUITS!
WE ARE BLOODLESS
KILL HER!

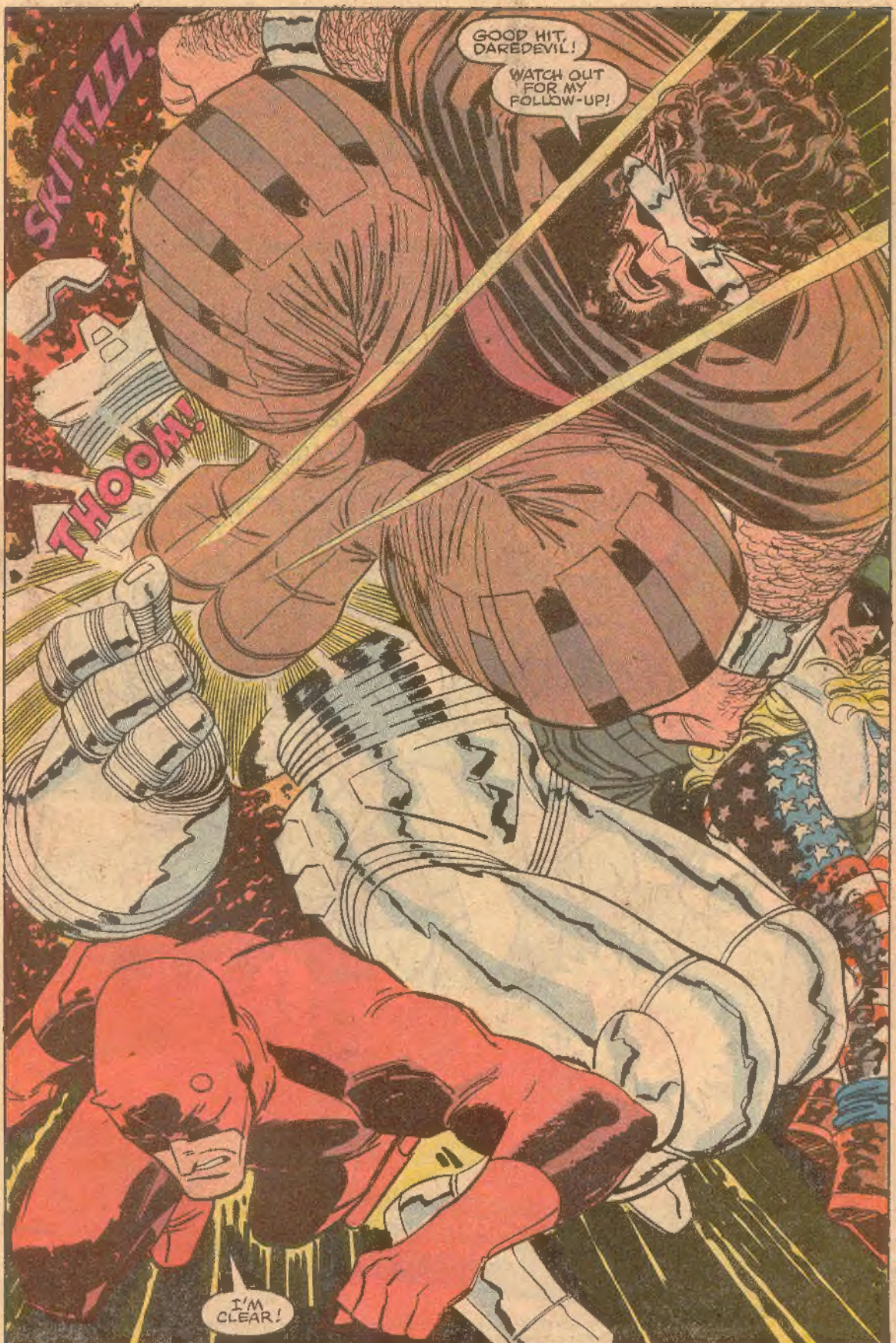
OH MY GOD, IS HE TRYING TO KISS ME?
KILL HER.
I LOVE YOU
KILL HER
I LOVE YOU'
KILL HER'
SCREAMS! IT'S NUMBER NINE'
THE OTHERS DON'T HEAR IT, SO IT MUST BE FROM DEEP IN THE WOODS!
PUTER NETWORKS, IF THAT WOULD HELP YOU IN YOUR SEARCH...
THANK YOU--
HEY!
DAREDEVIL!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
SCREAMS'
SO FAINT..
HEY, WHERE'S NUMBER NINE?!

AN ELECTRONIC VOICE!
MANY VOICES!
A DOZEN ELECTRONIC VOICES!
BUT I DETECT ONLY ONE HEARTBEAT!

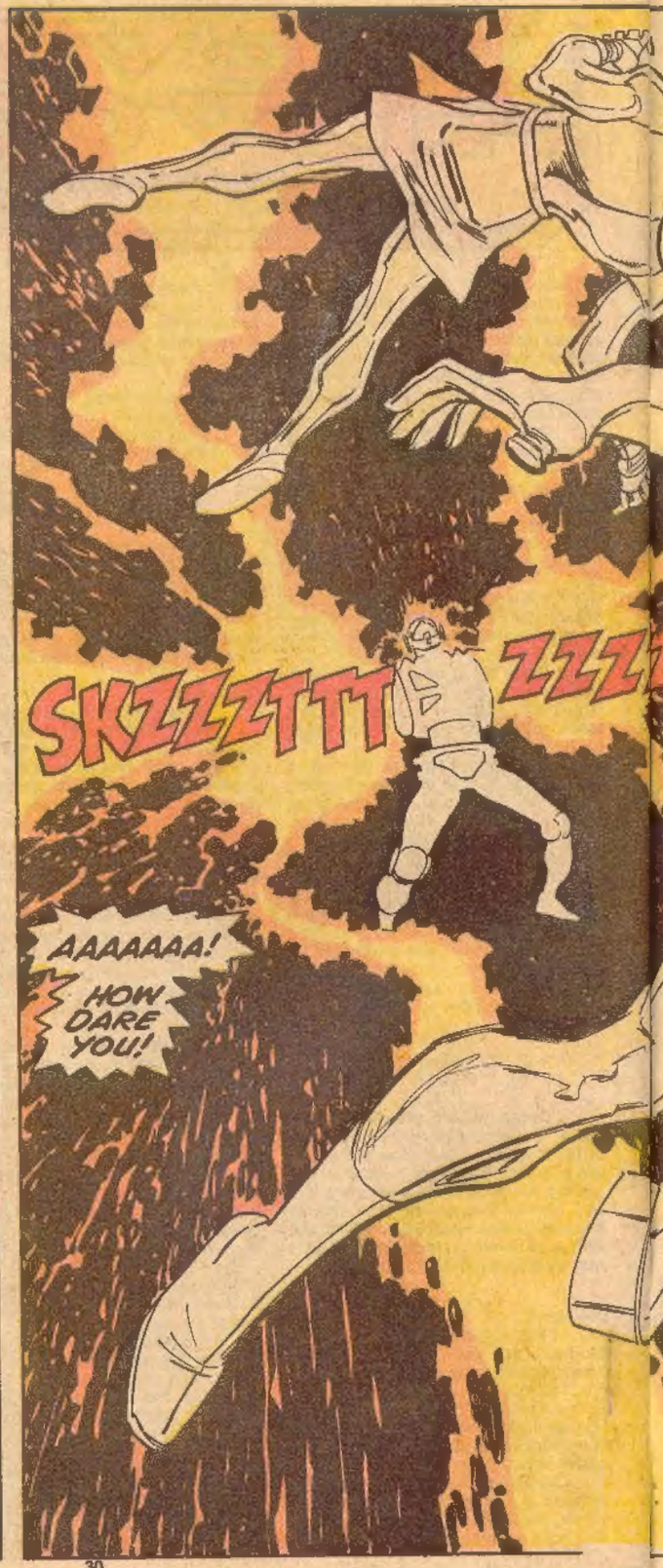
HOW DARE YOU, DOCTOR DOOM!
BY CREATING ME YOU MOCK MAN, AND DEFY THE TRUE CREATOR!

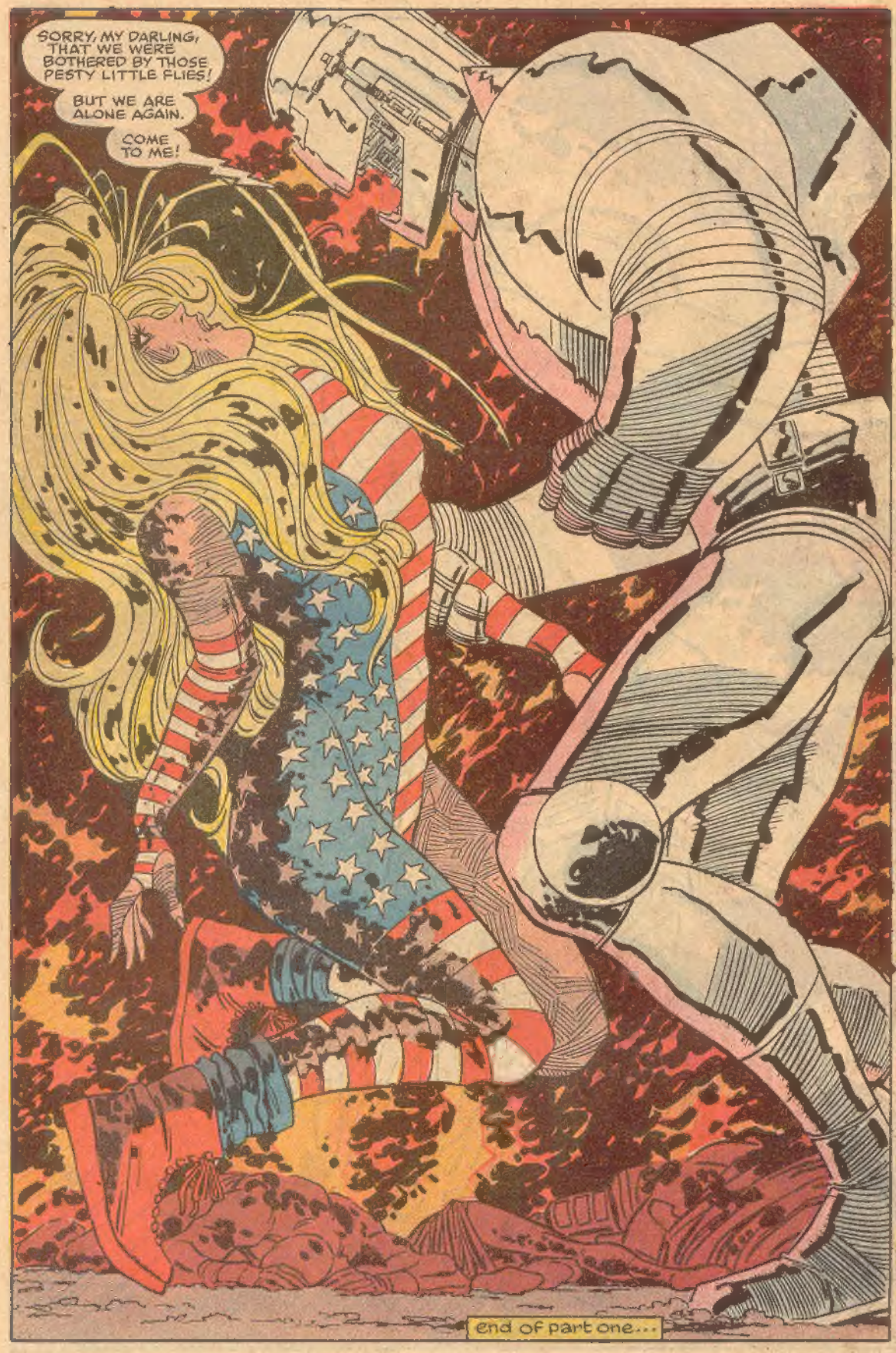

THE ESSENCE OF HUMANITY IS THAT IT IS FLAWED!
I AM A FLAWED CREATION, I AM PART OF HUMANITY.
BUT I AM A FALSE MAN, I MOCK CREATION, AND MAN.
THE PRESUMPTION OF MY EXISTENCE IS BLASPHEMY.


I MUST BE DESTROYED.
MY CREATOR MUST BE DESTROYED FOR HIS ORIGINAL SIN!
ULTRON! PLEASE!
I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD ME!
NOW, YOU BABBLE AND MAKE NO SENSE.
OUCH, LET GO--!


SKITTZZZ!
GOOD HIT, DAREDEVIL!
WATCH OUT FOR MY FOLLOW-UP!
THOOM!
I'M CLEAR!

WE CAN'T LET UP! I WILL USE MY POWER TO SEEK THE WEAK POINT IN ANY OBJECT AND--
CHOKOOM!


SKZZZTTT
ZZZZZ!
AAAAAAA!
HOW DARE YOU!


SORRY, MY DARLING, THAT WE WERE BOTHERED BY THOSE PESTY LITTLE FLIES!
BUT WE ARE ALONE AGAIN.
COME TO ME!
end of part one...

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR -- MIKE ROCKWITZ: ASSISTANT EDITOR

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Hello from Scotland!

I've been following DAREDEVIL for years now, and I really love this book because recent storylines have left me with something that other storylines didn't. Recent issues have left me thinking. Yep, thinking about what went on...not actual stories but certain topics. Examples? Sure!

#263: "Is it possible that man was just an experiment that failed?"

#265: "This city'll get you--brutalizes you day in, day out, till you're so hard, you're inhuman."

#267: "The bill of rights is a piece of paper. It burns like anything else." and "Think small--life by inch, not by miles." This is good stuff!

Ann, your writing is so intense and well thought out, sometimes I feel you've been in these situations and know exactly how it should feel.

John's art is so good! How can anyone say it's "bland" or "dull"? They must be crazy. DD has never looked better. I loved the trenchcoat and hat in #267!

So anyway, I have no idea where you're taking this book, but I know it's gonna be right on a tangent and I'll certainly tag along!

One more observation, Ann, were you influenced by the classic Spidey vs. Sinister Six story when you wrote #260? It reminded me so much of it, right down to the wonderful full-page spreads! The only difference was that Spidey won!

Keep up the good work, folks. I noticed that you don't get much mail from the Land of the Brave so I thought you might like to know how well DD goes down over here.

Louis Fecou
9 Armour Place
Ardrossan, Ayrshire, Scotland
KA22 75B

Thanks for keeping us informed on how ol' Hornhead is going over in the land of the Braves, Louie! How are things going in Atlanta, anyway? Oops. Well, anyway, it's good to have you aboard to kick off our first official International Daredevil Letters Page! Stick around, and we'll make sure Ann keeps her tangents in line. Or at least perpendicular.

Dear Marvel,

I just picked up DAREDEVIL #268 and I must say that it is the best story in these pages since my return to them a year ago. I stopped following DD around the time of the second SECRET WARS series because I felt the character was losing sight of his purpose. Now, though, I feel DD is right on track.

"Golden Rut" was a story much like the ones in the early 200's in its style and action. John's artwork is topnotch and has even improved since his X-MEN days (which is indeed high praise).

All in all, the red man is looking good and acting like the Daredevil of old. He's not a cosmic hero like the Surfer or Thor, in fact he's just an almost regular guy doing what he feels is right.

In closing, let me make one request: Bring back Bullseye!

Until Daredevil trashes Galactus, Make Mine Marvel!

Joe Christiano
35 Coach Drive
Waterbury, CT 06708

We hope he's not acting like the Daredevil of *too* old, Joe--he's been eating his Wheaties and taking One-A-Day, and everything, but his recent...er...mishaps *have* taken quite a bit out of him. We *all* need a break, now and then. Of course, in DD's case, it might be an arm or a leg!

Dear Advocates,

"Golden Rut," in a word was poetry.

I've been a longtime fan of DAREDEVIL, but I have to admit that its been quite some time since this book has taken a different direction as interestingly intriguing, in my opinion, as it has after Inferno.

The "wanderer," "vagabond" hero theme has been used over and over again. But there seems to be no cliche effect within these pages. I truly commend the manner in which the creative team is handling this chapter in Matt Murdock's life. His current situation calls to mind a coupling of Bill Bixby's television portrayal of the Incredible Hulk, or Michael Landon's on "Highway to Heaven" (a little irony with respect to theological terms there). I like what I've been reading.

I've observed how the dialogue, particularly Matt's thoughts (if they can be considered that) read like quoted passages of some poetic works. Some of the writing can so easily be defined as imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response. This is one of the definitions of poetry from Websters 3rd New International Dictionary. Without getting too philosophical, or too heavy, I feel that Ann Nocenti's work,although not being too metrical, is poetry. The quality of the writing is quite thought provoking, and sometimes even inspiring. Not bad for a "comic book," wouldn't you say?

Regarding #268, the overall storyline was thoroughly entertaining, the premise was clever, and the confrontation between Hornhead and Raymor's brother was priceless. Poetic justice. One small detail bothered me, though. It concerns the line "cut off the bad leg to save the body." I wasn't aware Daredevil read minds. In any event it was a terrific issue, one of the best I've read in a while. The artwork continues to be superb. My thanks to JR Jr. and Al Williamson for their fine work. That cover was "simple" yet captivating to the extent that it seemed to stand out among the other mags. I loved it.

There's something about the "new" Daredevil. I'm not sure how long the "travelin' Matt" storyline can continue. I'm certain someone in Hell's Kitchen will discover his absence soon enough, but I trust you'll perpetuate this fresh idea at least until the "best before" date. I can imagine the countless directions you can take Daredevil, current brooding demeanor and all, and anxiously await each and every issue. I know I will not be disappointed looking back at this book's creative team's track record.

Until next time, keep up the good work.

J. Torres
Montreal, Quebec

Thanks for the praise, JI Don't think we've ever had Daredevil praised quite so highly. JI "Vagabond"..."wanderer"..."simple"...you're making us blush! There will definitely be some action heating up the H E double-hockey-sticks area of New York City in DD's absence, and a lot of action when (if?) he goes back. It's definitely *not* to be missed! Hopefully DD can stay alive until then, but we're not making any guarantees!

Dear Ralph,

Judging by his terrorization of Hank in DD #268, "Golden Rut," Matt Murdock has become a very embittered man. Through his own actions and inadequacies, he's lost Karen, and unable to deal with that, he's set out on a journey to find himself. So far he's found nothing.

Ann generally writes very powerfully and evocatively. Sometimes she over-dresses the problems and is too profound with her philosophy, almost as if she's trying too hard to be complicated. This story shows the best in her writing, a lot of thought put into it but no artificial complexity, and above all, a human approach, showing us what the various characters are going through. John and Al's art complements this perfectly. John is becoming as good an artist as his father, while Al remains one of the best in the business. It's a pity we don't see anything that's fully his work nowadays. The layouts and stark simplicity of the images follow the Miller/Mazzucchelli styles which took this book from mediocrity to the heights not reached since Gene Colan's days on the book.

Malcolm Bourne
6 Craigwell Rd.
Prestwich, Manchester
England M25 8EF

Thanks, Malcolm.